

Appendix G:

Glossary

alternative – a reasonable way to fix the identified problem or satisfy the stated need [see also *management alternative*].

appropriate use - a proposed or existing use of a national wildlife refuge that (1) supports the Refuge System Mission, the major purposes, goals or objectives of the refuge; (2) is necessary for the safe and effective conduct of a priority general public use on the refuge; (3) is other wise determined under Service Manual Chapter 605 FW1 (draft), by the Refuge Manager and Refuge Supervisor to be appropriate.

biological or natural diversity – the abundance, variety, and genetic constitution of animals and plants in nature; also referred to as “biodiversity.”

breeding habitat – habitat used by migratory birds or other animals during the breeding season.

buffer zones – protective land borders around critical habitats or water bodies that reduce runoff and nonpoint source pollution loading; areas created or sustained to lessen the negative effects of land development on animals and plants and their habitats.

candidate species – those species for which the Service has on file sufficient information on biological vulnerability and threats to propose them for listing.

carrying capacity – the size of the population that can be sustained by a given environment.

Categorical Exclusion (CE, CX, CATEX, CATX) – a category of actions that do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment and have been found to have no such effect in procedures adopted by a Federal agency pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (40 CFR 1508.4).

CFR – Code of Federal Regulations.

community – the area or locality in which a group of people resides and shares the same government.

community type – a particular assemblage of plants and animals named for the characteristic plants.

compatible use – an allowed use that will not materially interfere with, or detract from, the purposes for which the unit was established (Service Manual 602 FW 1.4).

compatibility determination – a compatibility determination is required for a wildlife-dependant recreational use or any other public use of a refuge. A compatible use is one which, in the sound professional judgment of the Refuge Manager, will not materially interfere with or detract from fulfillment of the Refuge System Mission or refuge purpose(s).

Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) – a document that describes the desired future conditions of a refuge or planning unit and provides long-range guidance and management direction to achieve the purposes of the refuge, help fulfill the mission of the System, maintain and where appropriate, restore the biological integrity, diversity, and environmental health of each refuge and the System, and meet other mandates.

concern – see *issue*.

conservation – the management of natural resources to prevent loss or waste. Management actions may include preservation, restoration, and enhancement.

conservation agreements – written agreements reached among two or more parties for the purpose of ensuring the survival and welfare of unlisted species of fish and wildlife and/or their habitats, or to achieve other specified conservation goals. Participants voluntarily commit to implementing specific actions that will remove or reduce the threats to these species.

conservation easement – a legal agreement between a landowner and a land trust (a private, nonprofit conservation organization) or government agency that permanently limits a property’s uses in order to protect its conservation values.

cooperative agreement – the legal instrument used when the principle purpose of the transaction is the transfer of money, property, services or anything of value to a recipient in order to accomplish a public purpose authorized by Federal statute and substantial involvement between the Service and the recipient is anticipated.

cultural resources – evidence of historic or prehistoric human activity, such as buildings, artifacts, archaeological sites, documents, or oral or written history. *Public Law 100-588* (1988) lowered the threshold value of artifacts triggering the felony provision of the Act from \$5,000 to \$500, made attempting to commit an action prohibited by the Act a violation, and required the land managing agencies to establish public awareness programs regarding the value of archaeological resources to the Nation.

database – a collection of data arranged for ease and speed of analysis and retrieval, usually computerized.

designated wilderness area – an area designated by the United States Congress to be managed as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System (Draft Service Manual 610 FW 1.5).

digitizing – the process of converting information from paper maps into geographically referenced electronic files for a geographic information system (GIS).

early successional stage – a vegetated area that is in the primary stages of ecological succession.

easement – an agreement by which a landowner gives up or sells one of the rights on his/her property. For example, a landowner may donate a right of way across his/her property to allow community members access.

ecological succession – the orderly progression of an area through time from one vegetative community to another in the absence of disturbance. For example, an

area may proceed from a grass-forb, through a shrub-scrub, to a mixed hardwood forest.

ecosystem – a biological community together with its environment, functioning as a unit. For administrative purposes, the Service has designated 53 ecosystems covering the United States and its possessions. These ecosystems generally correspond with watershed boundaries and vary in their sizes and ecological complexity.

ecotourism – a type of tourism that maintains and preserves natural resources as a basis for promoting economic growth and development resulting from visitation to an area.

ecosystem approach – a way of looking at socio-economic and environmental information based on ecosystem boundaries, rather than town, city, or county boundaries.

emergent wetland – wetlands dominated by erect, rooted, herbaceous plants.

endangered species – a federally protected species which is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

environmental education – education aimed at producing a citizenry that is knowledgeable concerning the biophysical environment and its associated problems, aware of how to help solve these problems and motivated to work toward their solution.

environmental health – a biotic composition, structure, and functioning of the environment consistent with natural conditions, including the natural biotic processes that shape environment.

evapotranspiration – the combined effects of evaporation and transpiration resulting from high temperatures and seasonal vegetation growth.

exotic species – see *invasive species*

extirpated – no longer occurring in a given geographic area.

federal land – public land owned by the Federal government, including lands such as National Forests, National Parks, and National Wildlife Refuges.

federally listed species – a species listed under the federal Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, either as endangered, threatened or species at risk (formerly candidate species).

forested land – land dominated by trees.

forested wetlands – wetlands dominated by trees.

Geographic Information System (GIS) – a computerized system used to compile, store, analyze and display geographically referenced information. Can be used to overlay information layers containing the distributions of a variety of biological and physical features.

goal – descriptive, open-ended, and often broad statement of desired future conditions that conveys a purpose but does not define measurable units.

habitat fragmentation – breaking up of a specific habitat into smaller unconnected areas. A habitat area that is too small may not provide enough space to maintain a breeding population of the species in question.

habitat conservation – the protection of an animal or plant's habitat to ensure that the use of that habitat by the animal or plant is not altered or reduced.

habitat – the place where a particular type of plant or animal lives. An organism's habitat must provide all of the basic requirements for life and should be free of harmful contaminants.

hummock – a slightly elevated mounding of soil and/or organic material occurring in the forest floor naturally or by mechanical disturbance.

interpretive facilities – structures that provides information about an event, place or thing by a variety of means including

printed materials, audiovisuals or multimedia materials. Examples of these would be kiosks which offer printed materials and audiovisuals, signs and trailheads.

interpretive materials – any tool used to provide or clarify information, explain events or things, or serve to increase awareness and understanding of the events or things. Examples of these would be; (1) printed materials such as brochures, maps or curriculum materials; (2) audio/visual materials such as videotapes, films, slides, or audio tapes; and (3) interactive multimedia materials, such as cd-rom and other computer technology.

invasive species – non-native species which have been introduced into an ecosystem, and because of their aggressive growth habits and lack of natural predators, displace native species.

issue – any unsettled matter that requires a management decision; e.g. a Service initiative, an opportunity, a management problem, a threat to the resources of the unit, a conflict in uses, a public concern, or the presence of an undesirable resource condition. Issues should be documented, described, and analyzed in the CCP even if resolution cannot be accomplished during the planning process.

key issue – an issue meeting the following three criteria: (1) falls within the jurisdiction of the Service; (2) can be addressed by a reasonable range of alternatives; (3) influences the outcome of the project.

land trust – organizations dedicated to conserving land by purchasing land, receiving donations of lands, or accepting conservation easements from landowners.

limiting factor – an environmental limitation that prevents further population growth.

local agencies – generally referring to municipal governments, regional planning commissions or conservation groups.

long term protection – mechanisms such as fee title acquisition, conservation easements

or binding agreements with landowners that ensure land use and land management practices will remain compatible with maintenance of the species population at the site.

Maintenance Management System Projects (MMS) - the Maintenance Management System is a national database which contains the unfunded maintenance needs of each refuge.

[management] alternative – a set of objectives and the strategies needed to accomplish each objective.

[management] concern – see *issue*.

management plan – a plan that guides future land management practices on a tract of land.

[management] strategy – a general approach to meet unit objectives. A strategy may be broad, or it may be detailed enough to guide implementation through specific actions, tasks, and projects.

migratory game birds – birds regulated under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and state laws, that are legally hunted, includes ducks, geese, woodcock, rails.

migratory nongame birds of management concern - those species of nongame birds that (a) are believed to have undergone significant population declines; (b) have small or restricted populations; or (c) are dependent upon restricted or vulnerable habitats.

mission statement – succinct statement of the unit's purpose and reason for being.

mitigation – actions taken to compensate for the negative effects of a particular project. Wetland mitigation usually takes the form of restoration or enhancement of a previously damaged wetland or creation of a new wetland.

National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) – requires all agencies, including the Service, to examine the environmental

impacts of their actions, incorporate environmental information, and use public participation in the planning and implementation of all actions. Federal agencies must integrate NEPA with other planning requirements, and prepare appropriate NEPA documents to facilitate better environmental decision making.

National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge) – A “designated area of land, water, or an interest in land or water within the System but does not include Coordination Areas.” Find a complete listing of all units of the System in the current *Annual Report of Lands Under Control of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*.

National Wildlife Refuge System (Refuge System) – all lands and waters and interests therein administered by the Service as wildlife refuges, wildlife ranges, wildlife management areas, waterfowl production areas, and other areas for the protection and conservation of fish and wildlife, including those that are threatened with extinction.

native plant – a plant that has grown in the region since the last glaciation and occurred before European settlement.

natural conditions – conditions thought to exist from the end of the Medieval Warm Period to the advent of the industrial era (approximately 950 AD to 1800 AD), based upon scientific study and sound professional judgment.

non-attainment – air quality measures that have pollution level above the National Ambient Air Standards.

non-consumptive, wildlife-oriented recreation - photographing or observing plants, fish and other wildlife.

non-point source pollution – nutrients or toxic substances that enter water from dispersed and uncontrolled sites.

nonforested wetlands – wetlands dominated by shrubs or emergent vegetation.

objective – a concise statement of what we want to achieve, how much we want to

achieve, when and where we want to achieve it, and who is responsible for the work. Objectives derive from goals and provide the basis for determining strategies, monitoring refuge accomplishments, and evaluating the success of strategies.

partnership – a contract or agreement entered into by two or more individuals, groups of individuals, organizations or agencies in which each agrees to furnish a part of the capital or some in-kind service, i.e., labor, for a mutually beneficial enterprise.

population monitoring – assessments of the characteristics of populations to ascertain their status and establish trends related to their abundance, condition, distribution, or other characteristics.

prescribed fire – controlled application of fire to wildland fuels in either their natural or modified state, under specified environmental conditions which allows the fire to be confined to a predetermined area, and produce the fire behavior and fire characteristics required to attain planned fire treatment and resource management objectives.

priority public uses – see *wildlife-dependant recreational uses*.

private land – land that is owned by a private individual, group of individuals, or non-governmental organization.

private landowner – any individual, group of individuals or non-governmental organization that owns land.

private organization – any non-governmental organization.

Proposed Action (or Alternative) – activities for which an Environmental Impact Statement is being written; the alternative containing the actions and strategies recommended by the planning team. The proposed action is, for all practical purposes, the draft CCP for the refuge.

protection – mechanisms such as fee title acquisition, conservation easements or

binding agreements with landowners that ensure land use and land management practices will remain compatible with maintenance of the species population at the site.

public – individuals, organizations, and groups; officials of Federal, State, and local government agencies; Indian tribes; and foreign nations. It may include anyone outside the core planning team. It includes those who may or may not have indicated an interest in the Service issues and those who do or do not realize that Service decisions may affect them.

public involvement – a process that offers impacted and interested individuals and organizations an opportunity to become informed about, and to express their opinions on Service actions and policies. In the process, these views are studied thoroughly and thoughtful consideration of public views is given in shaping decisions for refuge management.

public involvement plan – broad long term guidance for involving the public in the comprehensive planning process.

public land – land that is owned by the local, state, or Federal government.

Record of Decision (ROD) – a concise public record of decision prepared by the Federal agency, pursuant to NEPA, that contains a statement of the decision, identification of all alternatives considered, identification of the environmentally preferable alternative, a statement as to whether all practical means to avoid or minimize environmental harm from the alternative selected have been adopted (and if not, why they were not), and a summary of monitoring and enforcement where applicable for any mitigate.

refuge goals – descriptive, open-ended and often broad statements of desired future conditions that convey a purpose but do not define measurable units.

refuge purposes - the purpose specified in or derived from the law, proclamation,

executive order, agreement, public land order, donation document, or administrative memorandum establishing, authorizing, or expanding a refuge, a refuge unit, or refuge subunit, and any subsequent modification of the original establishing authority for additional conservation purposes.

refuge lands – those lands in which the Service holds full interest in fee title, or partial interest such as easements.

Refuge Operating Needs System (RONS) – the Refuge Operating Needs System is a national database which contains the unfunded operational needs of each refuge. We include projects required to implement approved plans and meet goals, objectives, and legal mandates.

restoration – the artificial manipulation of a habitat to restore it to something close to its natural state. Restoration usually involves the planting of native grasses and forbs, and may include shrub removal and prescribed burning.

runoff – water from rain, melted now, or agricultural or landscape irrigation that flows over the land surface into a water body.

Safe Harbor Agreements/Program— Voluntary arrangements between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and cooperating non-Federal landowners. The Agreements benefit endangered and threatened species while giving the landowners assurances from additional restrictions. Following development of an agreement, the Service will issue an “enhancement of survival” permit to authorize any necessary future incidental take to provide participating landowners with assurances that no additional restrictions will be imposed as a result of their conservation actions.

service presence – Species present in the watershed for whom the refuge has a special management interest.

state agencies – generally referring to natural resource arms of the state governments of Virginia or North Carolina.

state land– public land owned by a state such as state parks or state wildlife management areas.

step-down management plans – step-down management plans describe management strategies and implementation schedules. Step-down management plans are a series of plans dealing with specific management subjects (wilderness, fire, public use).

strategy – a specific action, tool, technique, or combination of actions, tools, and techniques used to meet unit objectives.

succession – an orderly sequence of changes in plant species and community structure over time, leading to a hypothesized stable climax community.

threatened species – a federally protected species which is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

trust resource – one that through law or administrative act is held in trust for the people by the government. A federal trust resource is one for which trust responsibility is given in part to the federal government through federal legislation or administrative act. Generally, federal trust resources are those considered to be of national or international importance no matter where they occur, such as endangered species and species such as migratory birds and fish that regularly move across state lines. In addition to species trust resources include cultural resources protected through federal historic preservation laws, nationally important and threatened habitats, notably wetlands, navigable waters, and public lands such as state parks and National Wildlife Refuges.

upland– dry ground; other than wetlands.

vision statement – concise statement of what the unit could be in the next 10 to 15 years.

visitor center – a permanently staffed building offering exhibits and interpretive information to the visiting public. Some visitor centers are co-located with refuge

offices, others include additional facilities such as classrooms or wildlife viewing areas.

visitor contact station– compared to a visitor center, a contact station is a smaller facility which may not be permanently staffed.

visitor facility – a visitor center, visitor contact station, or concessionaire station, permanently or partially staffed by service employees and/or volunteers.

watershed – the geographic area within which water drains into a particular river, stream or body of water. A watershed includes both the land and the body of water into which the land drains.

wetlands – The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s definition of wetlands states that “Wetlands are lands transitional between terrestrial and aquatic systems where the water table is usually at or near the surface or the land is covered by shallow water.”

wildlife-dependent recreational use – “A use of a refuge involving hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photography, or environmental education and interpretation.” These are the six priority public uses of the System as established in the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act, as amended. Wildlife-dependent recreational uses, other than the six priority public uses, are those that depend on the presence of wildlife. We also will consider these other uses in the preparation of refuge CCPs, however, the six priority public uses always will take precedence.

wildlife management – the practice of manipulating wildlife populations, either directly through regulating the numbers, ages, and sex ratios harvested, or indirectly by providing favorable habitat conditions and alleviating limiting factors.

